MAR 2 0 2000 TO

Attorney Docket No. 10391/003001

THE STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

F.X. IGNATIOUS et al.

APPLICATION NO.: 09/171,740

FILED: APRIL 20, 1999

FOR: SUSTAINED RELEASE IONIC

CONJUGATE

Hon. Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

EXAMINER: T.D. WARE

ART UNIT: 1615

I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date of Deposit March 132000 Rose hee Modano

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

This is in reply to the Office Action mailed January 13, 2000, the period for response thereto having been extended one month to expire on March 13, 2000, pursuant to the Petition for Extension of Time, enclosed herewith.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the Office Action mailed January 13, 2000, (hereinafter "instant Office Action") and withdrawal of the restriction requirement of claims 1-37 and 40-67, are respectfully requested.

In the instant Office Action, claims 1-37 and 40-67 are listed as pending and claims 1-37 and 40-47 are listed as subject to a restriction requirement.

The Examiner has issued a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. \$121 and \$372. The Examiner alleges that "[t]his

Ř